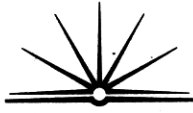


b ii). Albert Speer played an ~~huge~~ extensive role in the German War effort between 1941 and its end in 1945. He was according to his own account an "apolitical technocrat" and was only interested in organisational activities. This however is contradicted by his constant manoeuvring and manipulation of Hitler and much more could've been achieved had he not involved himself in political games with the likes of Goering, Himmler and Bormann.

In 1941 Speer was working for the 'Todt Organisation' ~~the~~ he was one of the subordinates to Fritz Todt and one of his main jobs was the organisation of repairs to the railway system in the Ukraine. This was a job that required organisational expertise, which Speer had plenty of. On the 8th February 1942 ~~Albert Speer was~~ Todt died in a plane accident and 6



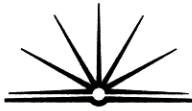
hours later Hitler gave Speer the position of Minister for armaments and munitions. In this position Speer reformed the factories and increased on Tools use of labour committees. He worked diligently and was able to increase production 300% by 1944 with only a 30% increase in ~~wages~~ workforce. He refined the construction cutting aircraft models from 92 to 5 and increased efficiency by having 30 000 tonnes of product produced from 100 000 tonnes of steel as opposed to 16 000 tonnes before 1942. Despite this diligence and hard work it cannot be said that he was 'unaware of the importance of anything else'. As Matthias Schmidt said. "~~Speer was not the eyes averted~~"
"Speer was not the eyes averted technocrat that he portrayed at the Nuremberg Trials".

From very early on in his position as



Minister for Armaments Speer was playing political games. When he was appointed he quickly separated arms production from the 4 year plan. This angered Goering but Speer met him and signed a decree that said he was Goering's subordinate, but the decree basically gave him total autonomy. If Speer was only interested in serving Hitler and Germany then why was he alienating himself from the biggest economic program in Germany.

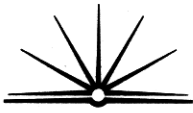
Another place where Speer came to conflict was with his factories. Speer was constantly trying to erode the power of the Gauleiters and subsequently Bormann by moving factories or changing what factories produced. In response many Gauleiters refused to obey Speer because they saw him as dangerous and thus war production wasn't ~~the~~ carried out.



Speer in his dealings with Hitler was also manipulative and self involved. If he wanted to get his way he would manipulate Hitler ~~and~~ using a panel of experts. Himmler approached Speer because he needed help to convince Hitler to build V2 rockets over jet aeroplanes. Seeing the chance for an alliance Speer ~~was~~ manipulated Hitler to build the V2 rockets and thus his actions would stop the production of jet aircraft for unreliable rockets.

In the final months of the war Speer took little interest in the war, he had meetings with industrialists on ^{re}-building Germany and he made sure he wasn't Hitler's successor. He didn't bother with the war effort at all.

Thus Speer was not a pure technocrat he was a keen political



negotiator who used his skills not only to extend the war but also to seek personal advancement. He was ~~smart~~ enough to ~~realise~~ that had he not taken part in his political games he may have had more allies and therefore would've been a more productive and effective minister.